

VESPA CAMPANARIA.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Os corneum ; maxilla compressa. Palpi quatuor inæquales, filiformes.

Antennæ filiformes; articulo primo longiore cylindrico.

Oculi lunares.

Corpus glabrum.

Aculeus punctorius reconditus. *Alæ* superiores plicatæ.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

VESPA Holsatica. V. nigra, linea utrinque ad humeros, maculisque scutellaribus luteis, abdomine luteo segmentis basi transverse punctisque contiguis nigris.

Latreille. Ann. du Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, p. 287.

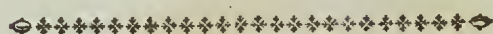
Insectorum in nidificando æque ac avium ingeniosa est solertia, et fortasse magis varia, illorum præcipue quæ *Hymenoptera* et *Neuroptera* dicuntur ; aliorum rarior longe, at non minus miranda. Ingens species aranearum Americanarum nidum struit calido artificio

ficio cylindraceum et tubulatum, cujus introitum, ut minus suspecta lateat, valvis mobilibus occludit, prædam si quam appropinquantem viderit, exiliendo arreptura. Nota est Myrmeleonis Formicaleonis Linnæi astutia, qui dum adhuc larva est, in arena cubans suo ipsius labore profunde et orbiculatim excavata, insectis quæ forte juxta repentina deciderint, vigilantissime insidiatur. Termitum quos parit Asia et Africa mirandum est ingenium, qui nidos ædificant in altitudinem multorum pedum, concameratos, et in magnam cellarum varietatem divisos. At longe præ aliis omnibus dædalis apum vesparumque laboribus maximus semper habitus est honos; e quibus nulla elegantius nidificat quam species reliquis minus nota, quod cubile sibi faciat in locis solitariis, in summis scilicet stabulis, aliisque id generis. Struit hæc nidum insignem festucæ, ut plurimum, seu frustulo ligni, aut tali alicui affixum, pendentemque de culmine horrei, aut septi cujuslibet, ore deorsum spectante, constantemque e globis concentricis tribus, quatuor, et interdum pluribus, substantiæ fere ejusdem ac papyri rudioris, imo modice aperto rotundoque. In medio globi interioris construitur cellularum congeries, duodecim scilicet seu quindecim, seu etiam viginti, quasi papyriarum, more ipsius nidi, et circa columnam centalem dispositarum. Cæteris paulo humilior est circulus cellularum exterior. Reperitur nidus fere exeunte æstate. Quod impossibile sit internam nidi conformationem plene repræsentare, ni execta sit pars aliqua ut inspiciantur cellulæ, ideo in tabula duæ proponuntur figuræ, quarum una nidum externum ostendit; altera per

per globos omnes concentricos nidum totum aperit sectione recta longitudinali.

Notandum porro est Vespam quandam Americanam nidum formare eodem omnino modo quo hæc nostra ; longe autem majorem, et e numerosioribus globis concentricis constantem, duodecim scilicet seu pluribus ; suspensum, ut plurimum, ramulis arborum, pinorum nempe et aliarum ; seu potius iis affixum.

THE
CAMPANULAR WASP.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Mouth horny ; with a compressed jaw : Feelers
four, unequal, filiform.

Antennæ filiform ; with the first joint longer
than the rest and cylindrical.

Eyes lunated.

Body smooth. *Sting* concealed. *Wings* pleated.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Black WASP, with a luteous line on each side
the thorax, two luteous spots on the scutel-
lum, and luteous abdomen with transverse
annular black bands accompanied by black
spots at their ends.

La Guepe de Holstein.

Latreille. Ann. d'Hist. Nat. p. 288.

The nidification of insects is scarcely less curious
than that of birds, and the variety of structure is even
greater. It is principally in the classes *Hymenoptera*
and



and *Neuroptera* that this practice prevails; in the other classes it is less general, though not less singular. Thus a large species of American spider forms a very curious tubular or cylindrical nest in which it generally resides, and, in order to remove all suspicion of the dangerous inhabitant, it constantly forms a moveable valve or door, with which it closes the entrance, and when it perceives the approach of any other insect, springs out and seizes the prey.

The curious policy of the Myrmeleon Formicaleo in its larva state is well known. It lies in ambush at the bottom of a deep conical cavity formed in dry sand, into which other insects accidentally falling are sure of being seized by the watchful inhabitant.

The Termites of Africa and Asia afford wonderful examples of this nidificating power, and form stupendous structures of many feet in length, and divided into a vast variety of cells and passages. Of all insects however those whose operations are most conspicuous are the different kinds of Bees and Wasps, whose labours have been admired in all ages, and celebrated from the most remote antiquity. Amongst the most elegant of these structures may be numbered that of a species of Wasp, which, on account of its frequenting retired places, and fixing its nest in the upper parts of buildings, is less attended to than many others of its genus. The structure of the nest is singularly curious. It is commonly fastened or suspended by a straw, or slight fragment of wood, or other small projecting substance, from the upper part of some barn or outhouse, and consists of three or four, and sometimes more concentric globes,

globes, of an appearance resembling that of coarse paper, with a rather small round opening at the bottom. In the middle of the interior or central globe is placed the congeries of cells, to the number of twelve, fifteen, or even twenty : these are arranged round a kind of central column, and are composed of the same paper-like substance with rest of the nest ; the exterior circle of cells being somewhat lower or shorter than the rest. These curious nests are generally found about the latter end of summer. It being impossible to give a clear idea of the internal structure of the nest without laying it open, it is represented in two views on the annexed plate ; one of the figures shewing its complete exterior appearance ; the other being cut perpendicularly downwards in order to display the central cells.

It may not be improper to observe that there is an exotic species of Wasp, a native of America, which forms a nest on a plan exactly similar to our present species, but differing in being much larger, and having the concentric globes far more numerous, viz. from ten to twelve, or more. These American Wasp-nests are commonly suspended from, or rather affixed to the small branches of trees, as Firs, &c.